**7. Desirability of throwing open certain Reserves, not required for forest conservancy, either for purposes of cultivation or for registry in the names of private individuals.**

*Mr. S. Padmanabha Panicker* (Member, Nominated) represented that certain reserved forests such as Kodumon, Karimkulam and Karikattur served no useful purpose, as they contained very little tree-growth. Moreover, being situated in the midst of habitations and cultivated areas, they harboured many wild beasts which destroyed crops and cattle. The above reserves should be cancelled and registered in the names of the ryots or at least granted for temporary cultivation. There were extensive areas in other Reserved forests also which, being swampy and devoid of tree-growth, were not required for purposes of forest conservancy, and could, therefore, be profitably thrown open for cultivation. The Member suggested that a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials be formed to find out such lands, and that such areas as are recommended by the Committee as fit for cultivation be disafforested and thrown open for registry. A bold step in that direction was urgently called for in view of the present economic distress.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

**8. Desirability of throwing open for cultivation all lands at the disposal of Government, including reserved areas, on moderate terms with a view to meet the increasing demand for paddy cultivation.**

*Mr. R. Govindan Nair* (Member, Minachil taluk) represented that the inhabitants of Minachil, Todupuzha and other hilly taluks in the State were now suffering great hardships on account of lack of facilities for paddy cultivation and that they stood in need of many concessions from the Government in that respect. At one time they were allowed to cultivate the hill slopes with paddy, but all those areas had been converted into reserved forests. He urged that, with the exception of the areas absolutely required for purposes of forest conservancy, the remaining portions of the reserves should be allowed to be cultivated with paddy. That was a very desirable step in view of the present economic distress in the country and the high prices of food grains.

The Agricultural Department should also be required to devote special attention to *cherikal* cultivation and suggest measures for bringing the *cherikal* lands, which were now cultivated once in 7 or 8 years, under annual cultivation.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

**9. Grievances of the ryots on account of the inaccuracies in the recent re-survey of the Nedumangad taluk and the urgent need for rectifying the mistakes.**

*Mr. M. Subramania Pillai* (Member, Nedumangad taluk) represented that most of the lands in the Nedumangad taluk were those that had been brought under registry at one time or other prior to the re-survey. During the re-survey, the records showing prior registries like those of the Settlement were, however, not gone into and, consequently, lands already registered were treated as waste lands and waste lands as registered holdings. Lands included within the limits of registered holdings had also been recorded as road sites and canal banks without regard to the old Ayacut or Survey measurements. Further, lands registered at the Settlement and subsequent thereto were located in waste lands in the hills and the really registered lands treated as *puduvals*. Steps were being taken to again register the latter class of lands on recovery of *tharavila*, *thadivila*, &c. There were also excesses and deficiencies in the areas surveyed as registered holdings. Another grievance of the people was that, though at the time of the original survey, boundary stones were planted inside the lands adjoining rivers, &c., for fear that they might be washed away, such stones were now treated as marking the outer boundaries of the lands.

Again, the ryots had no opportunity of knowing the mistakes and irregularities that were being committed when the Survey was in progress. They, however, preferred complaints to the Taluk authorities when the registration proceedings were

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started but their complaints were not heeded. The Member then presented a list showing some only of the mistakes that had occurred at the re-survey and requested that those mistakes and several others like them might be rectified before further action was taken by the Revenue authorities.

The Member, therefore, requested (1) that the Taluk authorities might be empowered to enquire into complaints about such inaccuracies with the aid of the records of the previous survey ; (2) that further action towards registry, &c., be stopped until the enquiries on such petitions were completed and the mistakes rectified ; (3) that proceedings under the Land Conservancy Regulation be not started against those who had entered on *puduval* lands and made improvements thereon ; and (4) that, if for any reasons, lands occupied and improved upon by any persons be registered in the names of others, compensation be given to the occupants for their improvements.

*Dewan's reply.*—The Member's representations and the list of mistakes during re-survey will be looked into.

**10. Desirability of commuting into money the tax now paid in kind to Jenmis on Jenmom lands.**

*Mr. N. Sankaranarayana Pillai* (Member, Vilavankod taluk) said that the *michavarom* and other dues to Jenmis on Jenmom lands were now required to be paid by the Kudiyans in paddy and that it entailed great hardship and loss on the Kudiyans. All the difficulties and hardships which the Kudiyans experienced in the payment of land tax in kind to Government existed in the case of the payments to the Jenmis. He, therefore, requested that the *michavarom*, &c., now paid in kind to Jenmis on their Devaswom and Brahmaswom lands be commuted into money. The *thiruppuvarom* charged on lands and payable to Jenmis and Devaswoms should also be similarly commuted into a money-payment. The rate of commutation might be fixed at 11 chs. per *para* of paddy as in the case of Sircar land tax.

*Dewan.*—Is it competent to Government to interfere in the transactions between the Jenmis and the Kudiyans ?

*Member.*—The tenants have a real grievance in the matter. The Jenmis themselves would have no objection to receive payment of their dues in money. The trouble experienced was at the hands of the agents or Kariasthans of the Jenmis who came to receive payment.

The Member, therefore, requested that an order might be issued by Government directing the Jenmis to accept payment of their dues in money at a certain rate to be fixed.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

**11. Desirability of amending Sections 6 and 8 of the Puduval Rules, so as to abrogate the provision in regard to the registry of *poramboke* lands on the banks of rivers, canals, lakes, etc., only after a reference to the P. W. D.**

*Mr. N. Sankaranarayana Panikkar* (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that, when applications were made for the registry of lands on the sides of roads, canals and rivers or for tank bunds or for reclamations from backwaters, rivers and canals, a reference had, under section 6 or 8 of the Puduval Rules, to be made to the P. W. Department before the registry could be ordered. The references caused long delays in the disposal of applications. The inspection of the lands was also done in a very off-hand manner very often by low-paid subordinates of the P. W. D. like maistries. The Member suggested that the P. W. D. should be required to decide once for all what extent of land adjoining roads, canals, backwaters and rivers in their charge was required for present and future requirements and mark it out on the ground. Revenue authorities should have full power to finally dispose of applications for lands outside the limits fixed by the P. W. D. without reference to that department. Suitable modifications should be made in the Puduval Rules accordingly

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

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